

# THE RESURRECTION OF LADY LESTER

---

by Oyam0



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Department of Theatre and Drama





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Molly Abraham, Detroit Free Press



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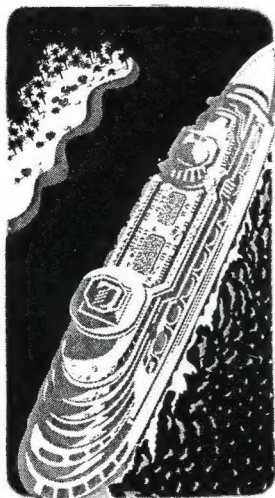
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School of Music  
Department of Theatre and Drama

*presents*

# THE RESURRECTION OF LADY LESTER

(A PLAY IN TWO MOVEMENTS)

*Playwright*

OyamO

Director

*Kate Mendeloff*

Instrumental Music Director

*Vincent York*

Vocal Music Director

*Stephen Newby*

Choreographer

*Linda A. Spriggs*

Scenic Designer

*Patricia Moore*

Lighting Designer

*Eric Fehlauer*

Costume Designer

*Karyl Newman*

Stage Manager

*Elena Goodhall*

Sound Coordinator

*Dave Vandervliet*

## SETTING

A hotel room, Alvin Hotel  
52nd Street, New York City

March 15, 1959

— There will be one intermission. —

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Unauthorized use of cameras or recording devices in this theatre is strictly forbidden.  
For everyone's benefit, latecomers will be seated at a suitable break or scene change.

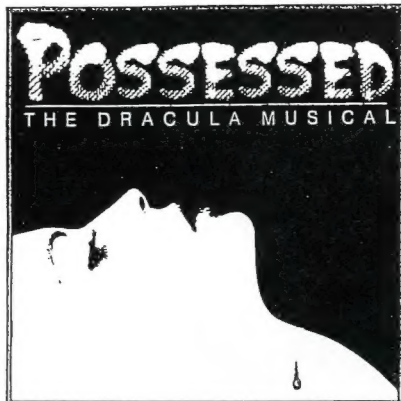
**Partial funding for this production has been provided by Stonebridge — A Planned Golf Community.**

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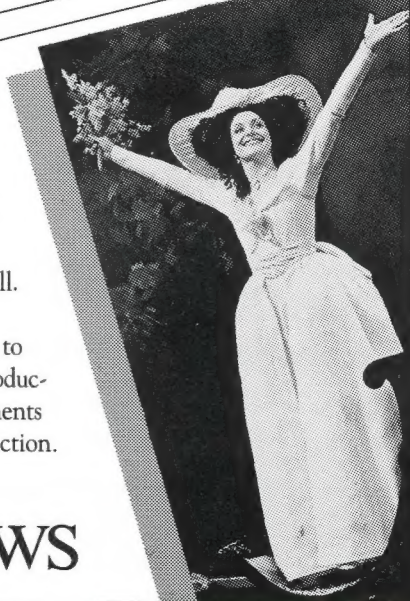
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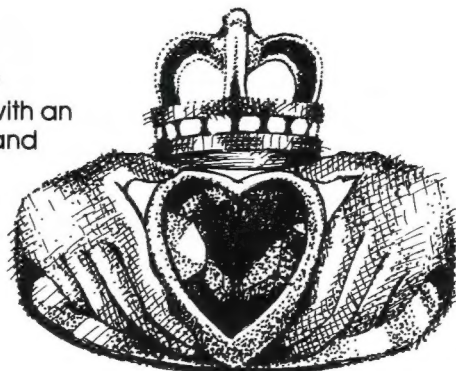
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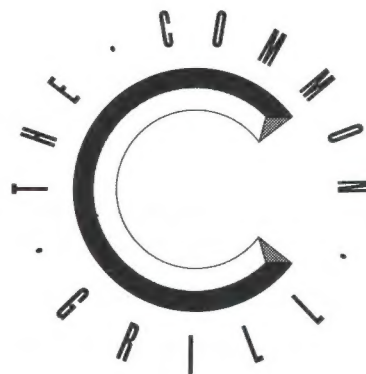
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# The Cast

Lester Young	Charles Jackson
Lady In Black	Gerami Seitzman
Bohannon/Musician/Slump	Ali Babu Che Johnson
Sarah	Kenya Payne
Grand Marshall/Lincoln	Damon Gupton
Musician/Swoop/Tweed/Sergeant	Kevin Clayborn
Musician	James N. Campbell
Tuta	Angela Malaika Peaks
BooBoo/Sgt. Willis	Jiba Anderson
Miss Lady	Tonya Warren
Pooky/Mouse	Sam Prince
Barker/Manager/1st Lieutenant	Joshua Funk
Preacher/Dr. Tramb/Major	Andrew Newberg
Agatha	Aletha M. Edwards
Lady Day	Elise Bryant
White Marie	Whitney Allen

# Musicians

Duane Harvey	drums
Donald Mayberry	bass
Gary Schunk	piano and synthesizer
Vincent York	tenor saxophone
David Froseth	tenor saxophone (Swoop scene)

# Program Notes

**Lester Willis Young** was born August 27, 1909 in Woodville, Mississippi. He learned to play many instruments (including the alto sax) from his father, a musician who studied at Tuskegee Institute. Lester began his life as a musician in the Young family band, led by his father, which toured the Vaudeville circuit. At the age of eighteen he left to join Art Bronson's Bostonians, a Kansas City jazz band, where he switched from alto to tenor sax.

The switch would mark the beginning of his successful career. Lester created his own unique style of playing the saxophone by not only combining the delicate sounds of Frank Trumbauer and Bix Biederbecke, but also by holding his saxophone at a 45 degree angle when he played. Young's airy, laid back playing was not readily accepted by most jazz enthusiasts. However, he played briefly with Fletcher Henderson and became a star soloist with the Count Basie Orchestra. Once his style began to catch on and intrigue audiences, his popularity soared far beyond the reigning saxophone king, Coleman Hawkins. Lester soon became good friends with, and recorded with jazz singer Billie Holiday. These two voices created a unique musical dialogue. Young soon named Billie "Lady Day", and Billie referred to Lester as "Prez" - the president of all saxophonists.

Young was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1944. He was imprisoned for drug possession (a photo of Young's second white wife seems the more probable cause), and later given a dishonorable discharge. After this nightmare, the man and his music became more introverted but still powerful. He continued to affect the evolution of BeBop and cool jazz, yet Lester was also overwhelmed by the many young tenors who were imitating his style. He was now being replaced by a younger generation. Although he continued to play and make appearances, he began to drink heavily, and close himself off from others. Lester's last engagement was in Paris, and in less than 24 hours after returning to his New York hotel room he died, on March 15, 1959.

Annélisa Blake  
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# About the Artists

**OyamO (Charles F. Gordon)** was born in Lorain, Ohio, in 1943. He has a BA from the College of New Rochelle, New York, and an MFA from the Yale School of Drama. He has received Rockefeller, Guggenheim, and Creative Artists Public Service program grants. OyamO was a founding member of the Black Theatre Workshop in Harlem (an arm of the now-defunct New Lafayette Theatre). Other credits include *His First Step* at the New York Shakespeare Festival, and *Three Red Falcons*, a screenplay written for Sidney Poitier and Harry Belafonte's Verdon/Cedric Productions. OyamO is currently working on a play about the Memphis sanitation strike of 1968 on commission for the Working Theatre, New York City.

**Eric Fehlaue** (*Lighting Designer*)

- Student in Department of Theatre and Drama
- Lighting designer, *Isabella*, *3 Ships*, and *a Shyster*, Performance Network
- Lighting designer, *As You Like It*, University Players
- Assistant designer, *On Borrowed Time*, Pasadena, CA; *Fences*, Sarasota, FL

**Charles A. Jackson** (*Lester Young*)

- Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre and Drama
- Founder, African American Artists Unlimited Theatre Company
- Director, *Les Blancs*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *The Mighty Gents*, University Players; *The Colored Museum*, UNLV; *Big River*, Grand Rapids' Circle Theatre; *Out at Sea*, Detroit Repertory Theatre
- Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, *The Meeting*, 1515 Broadway Theatre, Detroit

**Kate Mendeloff** (*Director*)

- Lecturer in Drama, Residential College; Adjunct lecturer, Dept. of Theatre and Drama
- Freelance Director, Center Stage, Baltimore; Arena Stage, Washington, D.C.; York & Albany Theatre, London
- Artistic Director, Tale Spinners Theatre, San Francisco
- Guest Director, Princeton and Yale Universities; on theater faculty, University of Maryland, San Francisco State

**Patricia Maria Moore** (*Scenic Designer*)

- Second year graduate student in scenic/costume design
- Scenic designer, *Clarinet Concerto No. 1*, *American Masterworks*, University Dance Company
- Production designer, *The Eumenides*, Arena Theatre
- Puppet Artist, *Owl and the Moon*, Wild Swan Theatre

**Stephen Newby** (*Vocal Music Director*)

- Instructor in composition, School of Music
- Music Director, Gospel Chorale, University of Michigan
- Composer for theatre productions, *The Mighty Gents*, *Trojan Women*
- Composer, *Spiritual Fantasy No. 4*

**Karyl Newman** (*Costume Designer*)

- Senior in theatrical design (B.F.A.)
- Costume designer, *Lysistrata*, RC Players
- Costume designer, *Mariken of Nimmeghen*, Harlotry Players
- Assistant costume designer on many university productions

**Linda A. Spriggs** (*Choreographer*)

- Assistant Professor, U of M Department of Dance
- BFA, The Juilliard School; MFA, University of Michigan
- Principal dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Joyce Trisler Danscompany, the Atlanta Ballet
- Soloist, *The Griot*, Kennedy Center, for the Lila Wallace/Reader's Digest Celebration of reknowned dance pioneer, Dr. Pearl Primus' fifty years in the field

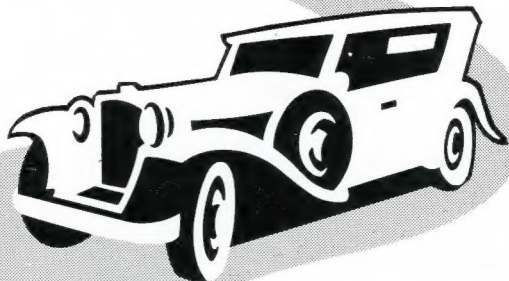
**Vincent York** (*Instrumental Music Director*)

- Performed with the Duke Ellington Orchestra; Ray Charles Orchestra; and Marcus Belgrave Sextet
- Played with notable Detroit artists such as Roy Brooks, J.C. Heard, Jimmy Wilkins at the Montreux/Detroit Jazz Festival each year since its inception
- Formed group, *Vincent York's new York Force* in 1988; album release in 1990



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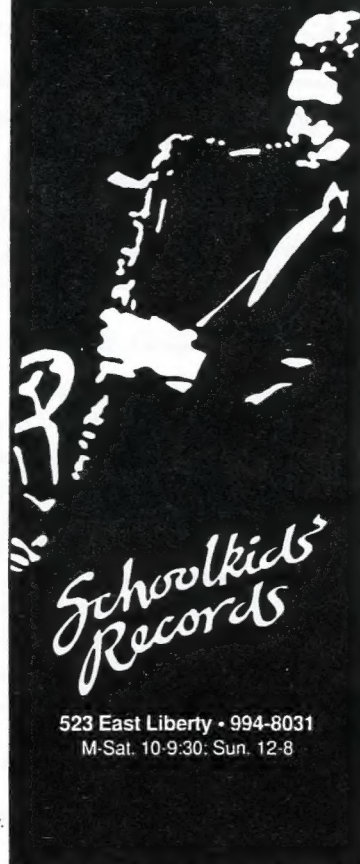
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#### Dave DiMartino

Senior West Coast writer, *Entertainment Weekly*.  
Former Los Angeles Bureau chief, *Billboard*.  
Record reviewer for *Spin* and *Musican*.



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# About the Performers

**Whitney Allen** (*White Marie*) Musical Theatre — sophomore — Wilmette, IL

**Jiba Anderson** (*BooBoo, Sgt. Willis*) Art — junior — Detroit, MI

**Elise Bryant** (*Lady Day*) Theatre — junior — Ann Arbor, MI

**James N. Campbell** (*Musician*) Communications — junior — Detroit, MI

**Kevin Clayborn** (*Twined/Sergeant/Swoop/Musician*) Dance — junior — Ypsilanti, MI

**Aletha M. Edwards** (*Agatha*) Communications/Theatre — senior — Grand Rapids, MI

**Joshua Funk** (*Barker/Manager/1st Lieutenant*) Musical Theatre — sophomore — Chicago, IL

**Damon Gupton** (*Grand Marshall/Lincoln*) Musical Education — junior — Detroit, MI

**Charles Jackson** (*Lester Young*) Houston, TX

**Ali Babu Che Johnson** (*Bahannon/Musician/Slump*) Anthropology — senior — New York, NY

**Andrew Newberg** (*Preacher/Dr. Trumb/Major*) English/Theatre — senior — Rochester, MI

**Kenya Payne** (*Sarah*) Psychology — sophomore — Southfield, MI

**Angela Malaika Peaks** (*Tuta*) Communications/Theatre — senior — Southfield, MI

**Sam Prince** (*Pooky/Mouse*) English/Theatre — senior — Detroit, MI

**Gerami Seitzman** (*Lady In Black*) Biology — junior — Orchard Lake, MI

**Tonya Warren** (*Miss Lady*) Musical Theatre — junior — Detroit, MI

# Musical Numbers

## (First Movement)

Goodbye Porkpie Hat ..... Charles Mingus

Dried Up Corncob Blues ..... Dwight Andrews and OyamO

Just a Closer Walk With Thee ..... Traditional

Old Black Joe ..... Stephen Foster

Dixie ..... Daniel Decatur Emmett

Come and Go to that Land ..... Sam Cook

The Curse of Mora ..... Traditional arr. by William Arms Fisher

Mop, Mop ..... Coleman Hawkins

Lester Leaps In ..... Lester Young

Polka Dots and Moonbeams ..... James van Huesen and Johnny Burke

Ain't No Place Like the Open Road ..... Dwight Andrews and OyamO

## (Second Movement)

The Man I Love ..... George and Ira Gershwin

God Bless the Child ..... Billie Holiday and Arthur Herzog

Strange Fruit ..... Lewis Allan

Detention Barracks Blues ..... Lester Young

# Acknowledgements

A special thanks to: Don Chisolm, Gratz Classic Cafe, Carty's Music, Stratford Festival Costume Shop, Dale Hudson, and Dwight Andrews for his kind permission to use his musical arrangements.

"The playwright wishes to acknowledge Jimmy Simpson, who was the original inspiration for writing this play"

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Production Stage Manager: Brett Finley  
Master Electrician: Henry Reynolds  
Technical Director (Power): Rolfe Bergsman  
Technical Director (Frieze): Gary Decker  
Associate Technical Director (Frieze): Richard Lindsay  
Master Carpenter: Bill Abbott  
Carpenter: Don Watkins  
Scenic Artist: Susan M. Crabtree  
Scenic Painter: Robin Lee Garber  
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Dramaturgs: Annelisa Blake, Chris Jebson  
Musical Dramaturg: Arwulf Arwulf

## PRODUCTION CREWS

Apprentice to the Lighting Designer: Joe Gold  
Costumes: George Bacon, Mary Berry  
Lighting/Sound: Greg Reden Bach, Shannon Bigler, Jeannette Burton\*, Gary Ciarkowski, Jeff Dine, Peter Drost, Becky Hoisington, Mike Little, Stephen Pax, Alan Pilukas\*, Sunil Rajan\*, Mark Russell, Rick Smith, Becky Trombley, Rebecca Valentino, and students of T250, 251, 252, 261, 262, 351, and 352  
Paint: Toni Auletti, Jennifer A. Bonin, Francesca Callow, Brandon Epland, Yasmin Etemadi, Derek Grouin, Heather McDonald, and students of T250  
Props: Zadda Bazy, Christopher French, Amber Hess, Sean Kinlin, Julie Strand, and students of T250, 251, and 351  
Sets: Paul Collins, Lael Easton, Cecilia T. Grinwald, Jason Lievens, Warren Lehmkuhle, Stephanie Pascaris, Matt Pruit, and students of T250  
Hairstyles: Debra Winstead

## RUNNING CREWS

Sets: Lisa Worzniak  
Electrician: Peter Yonka  
Sound/Followspot operator: Sunil Rajan  
Props: Mason Haber  
Wardrobe: Alyson Deitrick\*, Tricia M. Veltman

\*In fulfillment of coursework in the School of Music

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Susan R. Fisher and John W. Waidley

### Directors

Harlan and Anne Hatcher  
M. Haskell and Jan Barney Newman  
Rick and Mary Novak  
Dr. and Mrs. William D. Wright

### Star

Richard and Mona Alonzo  
Maureen Anderman (*in memory of Peter Coffield and Jay Moran*)  
Dr. Ruth Arrington (*in honor of Claribel Baird Halstead*)  
M.A. Baranowski  
Linda Bennett and Bob Bagramian  
Jean W. Campbell  
Lolagene C. Coombs  
Lillian G. Drury  
Beverley and Gerson Geltner  
Trudie and Julia Gleich  
Eleanor Hoag (*in memory of Leonard G. Hoag*)  
Walter Mugdan and Vivienne Lenk  
Gary Thomas Musante

John Neerken  
Mr. and Mrs. William Palmer  
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Pierce  
Jerome and Rosalind Sipher (*in honor of Devan J. Sipher*)  
Allan and Alene Smith  
Irving and Carol Smokler  
Marion and Lou Trubshaw  
Zelma Weisfeld  
Peter and Marianne Westen (*in honor of Phyllis Wright*)  
Paul D. and Kathryn T. Winston (*in honor of Rebecca C. Winston*)  
Phyllis Wright

### Cast

Maria Theresia Beye  
Joan A. Binkow  
Nathan H. Bryant, Jr.  
The Clearspace Theatre Company  
Susan Coran  
Tom and Judy Croxton  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Cundiff  
Marylee Dalton  
Millie Danielson  
Nita Wakefield Eggertsen  
Ruth Fiegel  
Ken, Penny and Matt Fischer  
Mr. and Mrs. Robben W. Fleming  
Richard and Susan Fybel (*in honor of Stephanie Fybel*)  
Verna A. Goss  
G. Robinson and Ann Gregory  
Robert W. and Jeanne Harrington  
Rose, John, Ryan and Leigh Henderson  
Jane M. and David Y. Hughes  
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas A. Kahn  
Virginia and Albert Katz (*a tribute to Claribel Baird Halstead and a memorial to William Halstead*)  
Linda and Ernest Kurtz  
Paul and Ruth Lehman

Donald J. and Carolyn Dana Lewis  
John J. McGowan  
Carla and Alan Mandel  
Margaret L. Mann  
Ann W. Martin  
Dores M. McCree (*in honor of Phyllis Wright*)  
Kathleen McGill (*in honor of Catherine and Columb McGill*)  
Myrna and Newell Miller  
Elizabeth Ong  
Molly Prendergast  
James J. Piper  
Jim and Ieva Rasmussen  
Anthony L. Reffells and Elaine A. Bennett (*in memory of Mary Lois Arterberrie*)  
Stan and Dorothy Rehak  
Samuel and Irene Rupert  
Roberta Seibert (*in memory of William Halstead*)  
Gail and Dorothy Shoup (*a tribute to Claribel Baird Halstead*)  
Neil and Bumette Staebler  
John and Alice Stritzinger  
Alice W. Vining  
Lucy and Steuart White  
Shelly F. Williams  
Edgar Willis  
John T. Williams (*in memory of Donna Williams*)  
Muriel and Dick Wong  
Sharon and Leonard Woodcock  
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Richard Shafer  
Roberta Raider Sloan (*in honor of Claribel Baird Halstead and in memory of Bill Halstead*)  
Heather Slotnick  
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## Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's — 1992-1993 Season —

### Ann Arbor Civic Theatre — MainStage —

#### CINDERELLA

Music by Richard Rogers,  
book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II  
directed by Patricia A. Rector  
The Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre  
Dec. 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 1992

#### THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

dramatization by Frances Goodrich  
and Albert Hackett  
directed by Cassie Mann  
The Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre  
Feb. 24, 25, 26, 27, 1993

#### MORNINGS AT SEVEN

by Paul Osborn  
directed by Charles Sutherland  
The Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre  
April 7, 8, 9, 10, 1993

#### ON THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

book and lyrics by Betty Comden  
and Adolph Green  
music by Cy Coleman  
based on a play by Ben Hecht  
and Charles McArthur  
and also a play by Bruce Milholland  
directed by Jim Posante  
The Power Center for the Performing  
Arts  
May 19, 20, 21, 22, 1993

#### MASTER HAROLD AND THE BOYS

by Athol Fugard  
directed by Conrad Mason  
The Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre  
June 9, 10, 11, 12, 1993

### Ann Arbor Civic Theatre — Second Stage —

#### LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES

(Dangerous Liaisons)  
by Christopher Hampton  
directed by Wendy Wright  
November 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20,  
21, 1992

#### BURN THIS

by Lanford Wilson  
directed by Jan Koenigter  
January 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30,  
February 4, 5, 6, 1993

#### A MACBETH

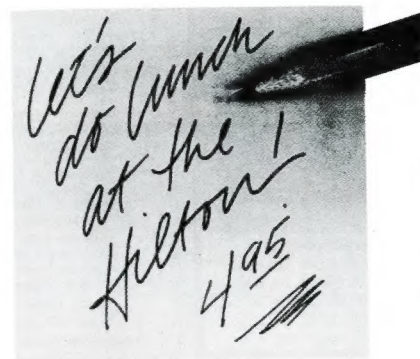
by William Shakespeare  
adapted by Charles Marowitz  
directed by Dr. George Popovich  
March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27,  
1993

#### BILOXI BLUES

by Neil Simon  
directed by Tim Morley  
July 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24,  
1993

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